

## Operation Round-Up

Since 1997, participating Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative members have voluntarily contributed from one cent to ninety-nine cents each month to the Operation Round-Up Foundation by rounding up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. The average amount contributed from any one account is \$6.00 and does not exceed \$11.88 per year. Each month an average of \$3,000 is collected from rounded up bill contributions.

The funds collected from Operation Round-up are held in a special account and their distribution is administered by the Cape Hatteras Electric Foundation. The Foundation was established to provide assistance to individuals suffering financial hardships and non-profit groups that provide emergency assistance. CHEF is governed by a volunteer board of directors who meet once a month to review applications requesting assistance. The Foundation board also coordinates with other local assistance agencies to ensure all needs are met for applicants, but not duplicated.

CHEF has provided support to individuals with payment assistance for items such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, unexpected medical expenses, food, housing and other necessary living expenses. The Foundation does not assist with electric bills. Funding has also been provided to several local non-profit organizations such as Hatteras Island Meals, and Yellow House Ministries.

Since the passing of Hurricane Irene in late August, many individuals and organizations on Hatteras Island have experienced financial hardship and the Foundation has seen a steady rise in the amount of applications for assistance. The Foundation board has been working diligently to closely review each application and distribute the available funds fairly and carefully.

If you would like to make an additional contribution to the Foundation, please mail your tax deductible donation to the CHEF, PO Box 9, Buxton NC, 27920. If you do not have an Operation Round-Up amount on your current electric billing statement and would like to contribute each month, please email [billing@chec.coop](mailto:billing@chec.coop) or call (252)995-5616.